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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
SUNDAY-MONDAY, APRIL 11-12, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Turkish Business Tycoon Sabanci Dies - All papers (4/11)
Coalition in Trouble in Iraq - Hurriyet (4/11)
Intelligence Reports Warned Bush Before 9/11 Attacks -
Hurriyet (4/11)
US Asks For Cease-Fire in Iraq - Milliyet(4/11)
Erdogan to Denktas: "Go Back to Cyprus" - Milliyet
Two Turkish Hostages Freed in Iraq - Milliyet
State Ceremony For Sabanci's Funeral - Sabah
Bush Did Not Take 9/11 Warnings Seriously - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

FT: Istanbul A Favorite Meeting Place For Terrorists -
Radikal (4/11)
Ankara Orders Denktas to be Quiet - Cumhuriyet
Critical Days in Cyprus - Radikal
Despite Cease-Fire, Fighting Continues in Iraq - Zaman
BBC Survey Shows US As World's Biggest Threat - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Death of Sakip Sabanci: Turkish business tycoon Sakip Sabanci passed away at a hospital in Istanbul on Saturday morning. Sabanci was president of Sabanci Holding, one of the two largest family-owned industrial holding companies in Turkey. Sabanci was a popular, colorful businessman who left a significant philanthropic legacy throughout the country. He will be buried today in Istanbul in a state ceremony.

Cyprus: All papers today report on the strong warning by Prime Minister Erdogan to Denktas make his case for opposing the Cyprus referendum to his people in Cyprus rather than to 'marginal groups' in Turkey. "Cumhuriyet" reports that Erdogan and Parliament Speaker Arinc criticized Denktas for holding meetings on the Cyprus issue in Ankara and Bursa. PM Erdogan's statement about Denktas' meetings with 'marginal groups' drew sharp criticism by non-governmental organizations and other political parties. A headline in left-leaning "Cumhuriyet" read 'Everyone except the AKP labeled as marginal!' "Radikal" reports that the Greek-Cypriot communist party AKEL will oppose the UN plan in the referendum campaign, an important blow against hopes that the referendum will pass on both sides of the island. 'TRNC PM' Talat, meanwhile, continues to campaign for a 'yes' vote in the North. "Sabah" reports that Denktas has been invited to the Turkish Parliament on April 15 to deliver a speech on the Cyprus issue. Saturday's "Milliyet" says the US Administration is working to obtain a 'yes' vote on April 24. A high level US official in Washington said that new investment and financial assistance would be offered to the 'TRNC' if the UN plan is rejected by the Greek Cypriots and approved by the Turkish side. "Hurriyet" interpreted the comment as a signal that the United States would lift its de facto embargo on Northern Cyprus. PM Erdogan Visits Japan: PM Erdogan left for Japan on Saturday for an official visit. A large delegation including 100 businessmen and 40 journalists accompanied the Prime Minister.

Azerbaijan's President Aliyev comes to Turkey: "Cumhuriyet" reports that Azerbaijani President Haydar Aliyev will come to Turkey tomorrow for his first official visit. He will seek Turkish support for Azerbaijan in the country's long-running conflict with Armenia.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

"Baghdad Days"

Asli Aydintasbas wrote from Washington for the mass appeal "Sabah" (4/12): "The uprising in Sadr and Fallujah has strengthened the Americans' willingness to deliver Iraq's administration to the new UN representative, Lakhdar Brahimi. . . Brahimi aims to expand the Iraqi Governing Council (IGC) in a way to include the Sunni and other elements in the country. . . Shiite and Kurdish leaders claim that Brahimi is an Arab nationalist, and that he has no legitimacy in Iraq because of the alleged scandal in the UN oil-for-food program. However, Washington has sent the IGC a clear message to 'shut up.' . . The new US envoy to replace Bremer after June 30 will either be State Department Deputy Secretary Richard Armitage or White House Iraq policy shaper

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Robert Blackwill. Ankara has not been on good terms with Bremer. With this change of office, Ankara might seize an opportunity to make a new beginning in relations with Baghdad."

"Law and the struggle against terrorism"

Gunduz Aktan commented in the intellectual/opinion maker "Radikal" (4/12): "US forces have besieged Fallujah and killed 300 Iraqi civilians as a punitive action for the ferocious killing of four American civilians. The international community has accused US of using excessive force. . . US forces' simultaneous attack on the es-Sadr militia has changed the nature of the war in Iraq. . . Clashes have spread to Najaf and Karbala, and groups loyal to al-Hakim and moderate Shiite leader Ayatollah Sistani have joined in the resistance against US forces. . . The US has thus managed to unite the Sunni with all Shiite groups. . . Shiite and Sunni solidarity in a unified resistance will strengthen Arab nationalism. If the US grants sovereignty to the Kurds, clashes will spread to northern Iraq. The Kurds would then be at risk of another catastrophe, like those they have suffered so many times in their history. Such developments would render invalid the annual US report on human rights practices around the world, as these reports do not include Iraq, where the worst violations are taking place. The US will then lose its leading role in the field of human rights."

EDELMAN